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WARNING: ATTN BANGKOK AE
ATTN BANGKOK LOCAL
SERIAL: BK2307120391
PASS: ATTA POL
COUNTRY: SRV
SUBJ: RADIO COMMENTS ON PHOTOGRAPH OF U.S. MIAS
REF: BK2307150691 HANOI VNA ENGLISH 201425 H- FOREIGN MINISTRY
NOTE TO U.S. ON PHOTO OF MIA'S
SOURCE: HANOI VOICE OF VIETNAM IN ENGLISH 1000 GMT 23 JUL 91
TEXT:
//((STATION COMMENTARY))
((TEXT)) CONTROVERSY HAS BEEN RAISED BY THE U.S. PRESS AROUND A PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THREE AMERICAN PILOTS MISSING IN THE INDOCHINESE WAR SAID TO BE ALIVE. OUR RADIO GIVES THE FOLLOWING VIEWS ON THE ISSUE:

THE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING THREE AMERICAN PILOTS MISSING IN THE INDOCHINA WAR IS BEING MUCH PUBLICIZED IN THE UNITED STATES, CAUSING CONTROVERSY AMONG THE PRESS ON THE FATE OF THESE AMERICAN SERVICEMEN. SOME SAY THAT THEY ARE STILL ALIVE. THE PRODUCER OF THIS PHOTOGRAPH, STILL UNIDENTIFIED, AFFIRMED THAT THOSE SERVICEMEN ARE STILL ALIVE AND ARE BEING DETAINED BY THE VIETNAMESE SIDE.

THESE OPINIONS FORCE US TO GO BACK TO FILES ON THIS ISSUE. ACCORDING TO FILES GIVEN TO HANOI BY WASHINGTON, AIR FORCE MAJOR ALFRED LUBLY AND NAVY LIEUTENANT LARRY STEVENS WERE SHOT DOWN OVER LAOS IN 1966 AND 1969 AND HAD BEEN LISTED AS KILLED IN ACTION. AIR FORCE COLONEL JOHN ROBERTSON IDENTIFIED BY RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES AS THE THIRD MAN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH WAS KILLED WHEN HIS F4C CRASHED IN HAI HUNG PROVINCE IN NORTH VIETNAM ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1966. A JOINT VIETNAMESE-AMERICAN SEARCH IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH LAST YEAR DETERMINED THAT ROBERTSON HAD BEEN KILLED AND HIS REMAINS HAD MOSTLY BEEN DESTROYED IN THE CRASH. SOME OF HIS REMAINS COLLECTED AT THE PLACE WHERE HIS AIRCRAFT CRASHED WERE RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES OCTOBER 1 LAST YEAR. MEANWHILE, ROBERTSON'S CO-PILOT ROBERT BUCHANAN HAD PARACHUTED TO THE GROUND AND HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND LATER RELEASED TO THE UNITED STATES.

EVIDENTLY, THE NEWS ABOUT THE THREE AMERICAN PILOTS SHOWN IN THE PHOTOGRAPH MUCH PUBLICIZED IN THE UNITED STATES SAYING THAT THEY ARE STILL ALIVE IS GROUNDLESS.

VIETNAM HAS REITERATED THAT ALL AMERICAN PRISONERS OF WAR CAPTURED IN THE VIETNAM WAR WERE RETURNED TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIETNAM. AT PRESENT, SOME FIGURES IN THE AMERICAN POLITICAL CIRCLES HAVE AGREED WITH THESE CONCLUSIONS MADE BY VIETNAM.

IN ITS JULY 21 EVENING BROADCAST, THE VOICE OF AMERICA QUOTED CONGRESSMAN STEPHEN SOLARZ AS AFFIRMING THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH IS FAKED. HE ALSO SAID THAT THOSE PILOTS SHOT DOWN EITHER IN VIETNAM OR LAOS ARE NO LONGER ALIVE. MR. SOLARZ DREW AMERICAN PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THE FACT THAT THE PHOTOGRAPH MADE PUBLIC LAST WEEK WAS JUST AN ATTEMPT OF THE OPPORTUNISTS WHO WERE MISUSING THE WORRINESS

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AND SORROW OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL'S FAMILIES.

IN HIS VISIT TO VIETNAM IN MAY THIS YEAR, AMERICAN SENATOR JOHN KERRY SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THE OPINION SAYING THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT STILL DETAINS AMERICAN SERVICEMEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR.

THOSE ARE CRYSTAL FACTS. AS THIS IS A HUMANITARIAN QUESTION, VIETNAM IS READY TO COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE CLEAR THE MATTER RELATING TO THAT PHOTOGRAPH. VIETNAM URGES THE UNITED STATES TO ENSURE THAT WHOEVER MADE PUBLIC THE PHOTOGRAPH COOPERATE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT TO CLEAR UP THE QUESTION.

AS POINTED BY A LETTER SENT TO THE U.S. BY THE VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON JULY 20, IF THEY REFUSE TO COOPERATE IN THE INVESTIGATION OF THIS, IT WOULD BE CLEAR EVIDENCE OF THEIR MONEY-MAKING INTENTION IN PRODUCING THE FAKED PHOTOGRAPH AND SHOULD BE PUNISHED AND CONDEMNED BEFORE PUBLIC OPINION FOR INTENTIONAL PROLONGATION OF THE MIA FAMILIES' SUFFERINGS.

THOUGH IN THE PROCESS OF SETTLING THE MIA QUESTION, THERE HAD BEEN MANY ILL-INTENTIONED NEWS REPORTS ABOUT VIETNAM, VIETNAM STILL PERSISTS IN ITS EFFORT TO POSITIVELY SOLVE THE ISSUE. AT PRESENT, VIETNAM IS CARRYING OUT JOINT SEARCHES WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR AMERICANS MISSING IN THE VIETNAM WAR. SO FAR, VIETNAM HAS ON 34 OCCASIONS RETURNED TO THE U.S. 452 SETS OF REMAINS.

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